
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1437

Brief Description: Authorizing a volunteer chaplain for the department of fish and wildlife.

Sponsors: Representatives Dammeier, O'Brien, Pearson, Chandler, Miloscia, Haler, Armstrong, Morrell, Green, Kessler, Kristiansen and Smith.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to use the services of a volunteer chaplain.

Hearing Date: 2/6/09

Staff: Anna Jackson (786-7190)

Background:

Various departments of the state and of local governments are authorized to use the services of volunteer law enforcement chaplains to provide emotional support and crisis intervention. Currently, law enforcement personnel of police, fire, and corrections departments, as well as medical examiners and coroners, the state patrol, and local law enforcement agencies may use the services of a volunteer chaplain [RCW 41.22.010, 41.22.020, 41.22.030]. The emotional support provided by chaplains includes counseling, stress management, and family life counseling [RCW 41.22.010].

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) employs fish and wildlife officers to enforce the statutory duties and rules of the department. WDFW officers have the same police powers and duties as are vested in sheriffs and peace officers, and are authorized to serve and execute warrants [RCW 77.15.075].

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The WDFW is authorized to use the services of a volunteer law enforcement chaplain.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.